

*alchemillata* as the former having a single indentation on the inner margin of the white band of the forewing, whereas in *P. alchemillata* the indentation is double. In 1985, in an attempt to sort out the differences between these two species, I dissected several Cornish specimens. Unexpectedly, I found two of the moths which had double indentations to be *affinitata*. In addition, one moth had one large indentation next to a small indentation; this specimen too was *affinitata*. I found no *alchemillata* with a single indentation. The double indentation rule seems to be a good general (but not infallible) guide. In addition, I find that *alchemillata* is usually smaller and has more white on the basal area of the forewing than *affinitata*. — ADRIAN SPALDING, Tregarne, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall.

**Larvae of the Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis* D. & S. (Lep.: Lycaenidae) feeding on the seeds of *Geranium molle***

On 14th June 1983 at Perranporth, Cornwall I found ova of *Aricia agestis* on the upper and under sides of the leaves of smooth cranesbill, *Geranium molle*.

On 5th July 1984 I found two final instar larvae of *A. agestis* at the same site. They were at the top of the *G. molle* plants. Although the larvae were inconspicuous in themselves, their presence was given away by black ants in attendance. One of the larvae had five ants on it. The sand dune environment was very dry and the leaves of the plants were dead. The larvae had eaten neat holes in the fruits and were eating out the contents. The holes were similar in appearance to those made by the larvae of *Celastrina argiolus* in the fruits of holly. — Dr B.P. HENWOOD, 4 The Paddocks, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon.

**Interesting behaviour of *Vanessa atalanta* L. under drought conditions**

I was surprised to observe single specimens of the Red Admiral butterfly, *Vanessa atalanta*, drinking sea water from wet shingle at the edge of the sea, at the north end of Slapton Sands, South Devon, during the period 16th August to 6th September 1989. — H.L. O'HEFFERNAN, 24 Green Park Way, Chillington, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 2HY.

***Apion ervi* Kirby (Col.: Apionidae) feeding on apple**

The larvae of *Apion (Eutrichapion) ervi* Kirby are known to develop in the seeds of *Lathyrus pratensis* L., species of *Vicia*, and various other members of the Papilionaceae. Hoffman (1958, *Fauna de France, Coléoptères, Curculionides*, 3rd part, pp. 1651-2) lists six species of *Vicia*, with *Lotus corniculatus* L., *Pisum sativum* L., and *Coronilla varia* L. as additional host plants.

On 3rd September 1989 several specimens of *Apion ervi* attracted my attention when I was picking apples from a small "James Grieves" tree in my garden at Hemington, near Oundle, Northants (TL061853). Upon